

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-03 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7522

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: US, EC, EFIN

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS OF THE BIG FIVE MEETINGS IN THE US

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 7297

B) BRUSSELS 7226

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI HAS ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE UK, FRANCE AND GERMANY LOBBY FOR COMMISSION ATTENDANCE AT THE G-5 MEETING IN THE US. AFTER THE RECENT G-5 MEETING IN

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FRANCE, THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT RE-

STRICTED PARTICIPATION OF ONLY A FEW MEMBER STATES IN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCES. HOWEVER, THE THREE MEMBER STATES HAVE TURNED DOWN ORTOLI'S SUGGESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. REACTING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT SECRETARY SIMON OR SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE INVITING THE FINANCE AND FOREIGN MISISTERS OF BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY AND JAPAN FOR DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY AND OMNETARY QUESTIONS DURING THE IMF/IBRD MEETINGS, THE COMMISSION BROUGHT THE MATTER UP LAST WEEK AT A RESTRICTED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER), REFTEL A. THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE ASKED THE THREE MEMBER STATES IF THEY HAD BEEN INVITED AND ASKED THE COREPER WHAT SHOULD BE THE COMMUNITY POSITION IN REGARD TO ATTENDANCE BY ONLY SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THE REPS OF FRANCE, BRITAIN AND GERMANY WERE UNABLE TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT INVITATIONS.

3. COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP HAVE TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL COMMISSION SOURCES, THE COMMISSION IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE ON THIS SUBJECT NOW. IN THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, SEVERAL OF THE SMALLER MEMBER STATES HAD COMPLAINED OF THEIR EXCLUSION FROM THE G-5 MEETING IN PARIS. IN COMMUNITY MEETINGS, THE DUTCH AND DANES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AND THE BELGIANS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN DIRECTLY TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY (REFTEL B). THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER SUCH RESTRICTED SUMMIT MEETING SO SOON PUT PRESSURE ON THE COMMISSION TO TRY TO ARRIVE AT A COMMUNITY POSITION.

4. A NUMBER OF SOURCES IN THE COMMISSION HAVE TOLD US THAT THE CONCERN IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE US BUT AT THE THREE LARGER MEMBER STATES WHO SEEM TO BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN RESTRICTED GATHERINGS WITHOUT DEMANDING REPRESENTATION OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

5. AFTER THE UNSATISFACTORY DISCUSSION IN THE COREPER LAST WEEK, PRESIDENT ORTOLI DECIDED TO WRITE TO THE FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT TO ASK THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. THE COMMISSION'S PURPOSE IN SENDING THE LETTER WAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE THREE LARGE MEMBER STATES TO SEEK AN INVITATION FOR AT LEAST THE COMMISSION IF NOT FOR ALL THE MEMBER STATES. THE COMMISSION SPOKESMAN REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF THE ORTOLI LETTER IN HIS PRESS STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 23.

6. THE COREPER IN FACT DISCUSSED THE ORTOLI LETTER ON SEPTEMBER 23.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMANY, BRITAIN AND FRANCE STATED THAT
THEY CONSIDERED THE MEETING IN THE US TO BE OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY
FRAMEWORK AND THAT THEY WERE UNWILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GET THE
COMMISSION INVITED. MYERSON

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